

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Social Services	(2) MEETING DATE 12/6/2011	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Patricia Avery Caldwell 805.781.1831	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve the renewal service contract for the Family Ties Relative Caregiver Program between the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Social Services and Seneca Family of Services (previously Kinship Center), in the amount of \$170,170 for Fiscal Year 2011-2012.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that your Board approve, and direct the Chairperson to sign, a renewal contract with Seneca Family of Services (previously Kinship Center) for the Family Ties Relative Caregiver Program for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 in the amount of \$170,170. The funding notification for this program was not received from the State until September 16, 2011. Your Board's approval of this contract is therefore being requested retroactively to the beginning of FY 2011-2012.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) Realignment 2011	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$170,170.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$170,170.00	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation (Time Est. _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		(12) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: n/a <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(13) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) 19001090		(14) W-9 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	
(15) LOCATION MAP N/A	(16) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(17) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Date <u>November 23, 2010</u>	
(18) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW 			
(19) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts -			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Social Services / Patricia Avery Caldwell
805.781.1831

DATE: 12/6/2011

SUBJECT: Request to approve the renewal service contract for the Family Ties Relative Caregiver Program between the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Social Services and Seneca Family of Services (previously Kinship Center), in the amount of \$170,170 for Fiscal Year 2011-2012.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that your Board approve, and direct the Chairperson to sign, a renewal contract with Seneca Family of Services (previously Kinship Center) for the Family Ties Relative Caregiver Program for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 in the amount of \$170,170. The funding notification for this program was not received from the State until September 16, 2011. Your Board's approval of this contract is therefore being requested retroactively to the beginning of FY 2011-2012.

DISCUSSION

In 1997 Assembly Bill 1193 allocated funds to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to conduct local Kinship Support Services Programs (KSSP). These funds support community-based services to relative caregivers and the court dependent children placed in their homes and to relative caregivers of children who were at risk of court dependency or delinquency. The overall goals of KSSP are to:

- Establish a family support program that provides support services to relatives who provide homes for abused and neglected children/teens who would otherwise enter foster homes or who are at risk of dependency or delinquency.
- Ensure that children/teens maintain family ties.
- Increase a relative caregiver's capacity to obtain and maintain employment by providing supportive services, when appropriate.
- Improve outcomes of children/teens in the homes of their relatives.
- Provide services to children/teens and their relative caregivers to achieve stability, safety and permanency.

Required support services include intervention assistance aimed at maintaining the kinship family unit, transportation for medical care, education and recreational activities, referral services, counseling, tutoring/mentoring for children and teens, and collecting and reporting

KSSP data to CDSS. Also included are post permanency services to relative caregivers who became legal guardian or adoptive parent of formerly dependent children.

The County has been contracting with the Kinship Center to provide relative caregiver services since FY 2006-2007. However effective July 1, 2011, Kinship merged with Seneca Family of Agencies (Seneca) to further their vision of supporting children and families. The separate corporation of Kinship shall cease and the Seneca Corporation shall continue. Seneca is a non-profit Corporation that began providing foster family services in 1985 as a result of seeing too many children failing in group homes and foster-family care. To address what they felt was the short-fall of these services, Seneca began to look for mental health treatment programs and support services to address the emotional needs of many troubled children/youth in the foster care system. As a result Seneca has become a leading innovator in the field of community-based and family-focused treatment services for children and families. Their success rests upon the agency's commitment to five core service principles:

- Unconditional Care
- Parent-Driven, Strength-Based Service Planning
- Individualized Care
- Cultural Competence
- Interagency Collaboration

With a continuum of care ranging from intensive residential treatment, to in-home wraparound services, to public school-based services, Seneca is one of the premier children's mental health agencies in Northern California.

Kinship Center began providing services to foster and adoptive families in 1984 and is licensed statewide in California to provide a full range of foster and adoption placement services for children ages 0-18 and their families. Programs offered include:

- Adoption – services include public awareness, parent recruitment, assessments and education, child placement, and counseling.
- Foster Care – programs provide temporary care of children who can no longer remain safely with birth parents.
- Relative Care – provides services for grandparents and other relatives who are caring for a related child to keep them out of the public welfare system.
- Wraparound – provides intensive support to families in crisis, in order to keep children in a family setting rather than residential care.
- Education – services that provide education to families and professionals on issues surrounding adoption, foster care, and relative care.

Licensure statewide for Kinship is by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) - Community Care Licensing Division for adoption and foster family programs and certification by Orange and Monterey Counties for mental health programs. For their outstanding work the Kinship Center has received numerous awards, including two awards from the US Department of Health and Human Services for services to adoptive families.

The merger of these two organizations creates one of the most comprehensive service systems for children and families in California, serving children and families from Los Angeles

to Sonoma County. Young people who may have struggled educationally, suffered abuse and neglect, or be coping with mental illness will now have access to an extremely broad array of services. For more information about services offered by Seneca Family of Agencies, including Kinship services, visit their website at <http://www.senecacenter.org>.

Specifically, the County partners with Seneca/Kinship to connect children to safe, permanent relative caregivers that will support the child or youth for life. This objective is achieved through the Kinship Center Relative Caregiver Program, locally known as the Family Ties program. Most of the children served in this program have significant physical, emotional or developmental challenges, or suffer from past trauma. The Family Ties program offers specific hands-on support and education to relative caregivers to deal with the day-to-day needs of these children and youth. With the support of Family Ties staff, relative caregivers manage family transitions and access essential community resources.

If approved, Seneca through the Kinship Center will continue to provide the Family Ties program county-wide to help families enjoy healthy, successful and productive lives, and have access to the basic necessities. The program provides monetary and emotional supports to local relative caregivers and the children placed in their home. Services include parent support groups; parent education; home visits; children's activity groups during support groups and education workshops, while also linking the social worker and other agency staff involved in the family case. The goals of all these services are to support children in relative placements by building the capacity of relative caregivers to meet their health, financial, social, emotional, and child rearing challenges.

Seneca will collaborate with the County Department of Social Services (DSS) to assist the families that have illustrated a desire for support and services that will result in a reduction in foster care re-entry rates by establishing stronger family ties and supports. Seneca community-based and family-focused services further achieve the outcomes of Assembly Bill 636 (AB 636), the Child Welfare System Improvement and Accountability Act (better known as the System Improvement Plan or SIP), which focuses on continuous improvement, interagency partnerships, community involvement and public reporting outcomes.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

The County has worked directly with Seneca/Kinship to assess DSS and community needs. County Counsel has reviewed and approved the contract as to legal form and effect.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The County received notification of our KSSP funding for FY 2011-2012 from California Department of Social Services (CDSS) on September 16, 2011. Approval of this contract is therefore being requested retroactively to the beginning of FY 2011-2012. The total cost of the contract for FY 2011-2012 is not to exceed \$170,170 for the term of the contract. KSSP is now funded by realignment 2011. The amount of the distribution was based on the same amount as the FY 2010-2011 KSSP allocation. The cost of this contract is included in the Department's adopted budget for FY 2011-2012 and should have no impact on the General Fund.

Agency	FY 10-11	FY 11-12	Notes	Funding Allocations			
				Fed	St	Co	Realign- ment 2011
Seneca	\$170,170	\$170,170	Family Ties Relative Caregiver Program				100%

RESULTS

FY 2010-2011

Kinship Center exceeded the performance outcome of providing case management services to at least twenty-five (25) relative caregivers and thirty (30) children/teens in the Northern Region of SLO County that resulted in at least ninety percent (90%) of children remaining in a permanent placement with a relative caregiver. *A total of eighty eight (88) families, including one hundred and thirty five (135) children/teens, received case management services this year. There were twenty (20) new families served this fiscal year and forty four (44) new children/youth. Of those children served this year only one (1) was reported as entering a therapeutic foster home. Based on this report, 99% of the served remained in a permanent placement with a relative caregiver.*

Kinship Center produced one (1) newsletter and fifty (50) flyers/announcements that were distributed to identified caregivers and partner agencies. *The number of newsletters produced was fewer than the anticipated four (4), or quarterly, due to the need to address the needs of the families served. Instead of quarterly newsletters Kinship produced bi-monthly and month flyers of announcements to keep families up-to-date on monthly events and activities. This has produced higher involvement with the families Kinship serves. It was agreed at this time that no change will be made to the performance outcomes for FY 2011-2012. Kinship will continue to evaluate the needs of the families served and we will report on the written communication methods used in our next letter to the Board in FY 2012-2013.*

Kinship Center exceeded the performance outcome of assisting at least twenty-five (25) families with food and basic household needs (beds, furniture, oven, refrigerator, etc.) to help stabilize relative caretaker families. *Kinship distributed over eight hundred (800) food boxes, helped nine (9) families with furniture, one hundred and four (104) families with needed clothing, and fifty seven (57) families with other needs like transportation, adoption and guardian expenses, and gas.*

Kinship Center exceeded the performance outcome of organizing and facilitating at least twenty-four (24) caregiver support groups [two (2) per month] for relative caregivers, with children's activity groups concurrently held. *A total of thirty-five (35) support groups were organized and facilitated.*

Kinship Center exceeded the performance outcome of organizing and facilitating at least five (5) presentations to the public about the support services of KSSP. *A total of ten (10) presentations were given to community partners in SLO County. Presentations included: Paso Robles Community Collaborative (2), Paso Robles Sr. Citizen Advisory Committee, Arroyo Grande SAFE, Department of Social Services (DSS) Adoption BBQ, Cambria Kin*

Caregiver's Support Group, KSLY Radio Talk Show on Kin Care Giving, San Luis Obispo Children's Day in the Plaza, National Association of Mental Illness (NAMI) – Family-to-Family class, and Atascadero Children's Day in the Park.

FY 2011-2012

Seneca will provide case management services to at least twenty-five (25) relative caregivers and thirty (30) children/teens in the Northern Region of SLO County that results in at least ninety percent (90%) of children remaining in a permanent placement with a relative caregiver.

Seneca will produce a newsletter quarterly and distribute to identified caregivers and partner agencies.

Seneca will assist at least 25 families with food and basic household needs (beds, furniture, oven, refrigerator, etc.) to help stabilize relative caretaker families.

Seneca will organize and facilitate at least twenty-four (24) caregiver support groups for relative caregivers, with children's activity groups concurrently held.

Seneca will organize and facilitate at least five (5) presentations to the public about the support services of KSSP.

ATTACHMENTS

2011-2012 Seneca/Kinship Contract